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Secret Talks With Castro

Donovan 'Pleased With the Way Things Are Going' in Havana

HAVANA, Dec. 19 (UPI) — New York Attorney James B. Donovan was expected to resume talks with Premier Fidel Castro today to iron out the last details delaying the release of 1113 captured Cuban invaders.

Mr. Donovan and Castro met "somewhere in Havana" last night. No details of their discussions were made public and the secrecy surrounding the prisoner-release negotiations was as deep as ever.

PLEASED

Mrs. Berta Barreto, a Cuban go-between in the negotiations, would say only that Mr. Donovan and others in his party are "pleased with the way things are going."

Mrs. Barreto said Mr. Donovan will issue a statement as soon as a decision is reached.

Relatives of the prisoners hoped that, if a settlement is agreed on today, the captured invaders might be free by Christmas.

"That would be the best Christmas present we could have," one said.

Mrs. Barreto would not say where Mr. Donovan and Castro met or how long they talked, let alone what they discussed.

"I do not wish to give any more details until Mr. Donovan issues a statement," she said.

BARRED

Mr. Donovan and other negotiators, including Mrs. Barreto, flew here from Miami yesterday in a chartered Pan American airliner. Newsmen were barred from the airport, although they were able to watch from a distance while the chartered DC3 landed.

Castroite intelligence agents met the negotiators at the plane and rushed them into the city. Carloads of heavily armed intelligence agents preceded and followed the car carrying the negotiators on the 12-mile trip.

In addition to Mrs. Barreto, Mr. Donovan's companions on the trip from Miami were Alvaro Sanchez jr. and Virginia Betancourt. All three Cuban members of the party have relatives among the imprisoned invaders.

Thru the day yesterday, huge freight planes roared into Miami airport loaded with medicine and foodstuffs to be used in ransoming the prisoners.

At least 40 tons of supplies were landed in the Florida city yesterday, and another 16 tons were due to arrive by the end of the week.

Another 210 tons of ransom supplies is being shipped in by road.

Drugs, air and truck transportation are being donated free by the companies concerned as a "humanitarian act" in the U. S. national interest.



Part of the 150 tons of supplies that arrived at Miami unloaded from the chartered airliner.